



UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

# CRISIS IN NEPAL

## FLASH UPDATE

08 – 22 September 2025

## Situation Overview

On 8 September, youth-led demonstrations erupted following the government's sudden ban on 26 major social media platforms. The ban exacerbated long-standing societal grievances over corruption, unemployment, and systemic exclusion.<sup>1</sup> Initially peaceful, the protests were later disrupted by unidentified groups, leading to riots and widespread destruction of property. Security forces responded with live ammunition, killing several young protesters.<sup>2</sup> By 9 September, unrest had sharply escalated with attacks on government buildings, including parliament and key ministries, and a temporary closure of Tribhuvan International Airport.

To date, 74 people<sup>3</sup> have been killed and 2,113 injured.<sup>4</sup> Over 15,000 inmates escaped detention,<sup>5</sup> with 11,000 still unaccounted for, creating heightened security and protection risks.<sup>6</sup> The Ministry of Health and other key institutions sustained heavy damage, disrupting essential services. While core digital systems remain functional, the loss of paper records and servers will complicate case management and public registries.<sup>7</sup> The private sector also suffered significant losses with looted businesses, halted markets, and extended curfews leading to an estimated US\$22 billion in damages and widespread unemployment, nearly equivalent to half of Nepal's GDP.<sup>8</sup>

On 12 September, parliament was dissolved, and an interim government was appointed<sup>9</sup> to guide the country until elections on 5 March 2026.<sup>10</sup> The focus now is on stabilizing services, restoring governance with youth at the centre, and addressing urgent humanitarian and protection needs amid ongoing uncertainty. However, the context remains incredibly fragile and could be further exacerbated if the country experiences a natural disaster, as Nepal is among the most multi-hazard prone countries in the world.

<sup>1</sup> [BBC. 'Nepal lifts social media ban after 19 killed in protests'. 9 September 2025.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [BBC. 'What we know about Nepal anti-corruption protests as PM resigns'. 9 September 2025.](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Onlinekhabar. 'Only skeletons of 7 bodies, police say - no relatives have been contacted'.](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Reuters. 'Death toll from Nepal's anti-corruption protests raised to 72'. 14 September 2025.](#)

<sup>5</sup> [The Kathmandu Post. 'Over 15,000 inmates escape amid violent protests nationwide'. 11 September 2025.](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Epardefas. 'Over 11,000 inmates still at large after prison break. 12 September 2025.](#)

<sup>7</sup> [NDTV. 'Nepal's Judicial History Records Nearly Destroyed Protests': Supreme Court'. 13 September 2025.](#)

<sup>8</sup> [The Kathmandu Post. 'Billions lost, thousands jobless as Nepal counts cost of Gen Z uprising'. 14 September 2025.](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Reuters. 'Nepal sets March elections after naming interim prime minister'. 13 September 2025.](#)

<sup>10</sup> [AP. 'Nepal has first woman prime minister as president dissolves parliament and sets March elections'. 12 September 2025.](#)

**Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH):** While trauma cases have stabilized, Nepal's health system continues to face severe disruptions. Damage to infrastructure, staff shortages, and delays in supply chains threaten maternal and newborn care. Curfews and insecurity restrict the movement of commodities, while destroyed municipal offices cause further delays. Preliminary information from UNFPA focal points indicates that most facilities remain intact. However, mobility constraints and non-functional local administrations limit access, especially for pregnant women and those requiring emergency obstetric care. These challenges could compromise essential sexual and reproductive health services throughout 2025 and beyond. A formal joint assessment with the government is expected to be completed by the third week of September.

**Gender-Based Violence (GBV):** GBV services remain operational but under severe strain. The aforementioned jailbreak that saw thousands of 11,000 inmates released has intensified fear of further violence among survivors and service providers alike. UNFPA-supported Safe Houses and One Stop Crisis Management Centers continue to provide care, but often with reduced hours and remote modalities due to insecurity. At both provincial and federal levels, GBV systems are weakened by political instability and destroyed ward offices have disrupted referral pathways, limiting survivors' access to legal aid, psychosocial support, and transportation. A rise in GBV risks is anticipated, highlighting urgent needs for strengthened multi-sectoral response.

**Adolescents and Youth:** The protests have underscored the growing assertiveness of Nepal's youth in demanding accountability, digital rights, and fairer systems. However, the heavy-handed response has left children and young people at risk of life-altering injuries with long-term health, economic, and psychosocial consequences, affecting not only them but also their families and communities.<sup>11</sup>

## UNFPA Response

**Sexual and Reproductive Health:** UNFPA has prioritized restoring and safeguarding life-saving SRH services across federal, provincial, and local levels and has reactivated the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Working Group (RMNCAH WG) in Nepal. A rapid assessment tool, developed jointly with the Ministry of Health and Population, WHO, UNICEF, and partners, was endorsed on 12 September by the RMNCAH WG and Ministry of Health and Population. Data collection is now underway through Provincial Reproductive Health Coordination Committee members to guide UNFPA in targeted interventions and resource allocation.

UNFPA is supporting the transportation of [essential medical supplies](#) to the most affected areas where supply chains remain disrupted. These include reproductive health commodities — such as contraceptives (IUDs, implants, pills, depo shots, condoms, and Saranapress) — as well as antibiotics, oxytocin, magnesium sulphate, nutrition-related commodities, and other critical medicines. The supplies are being moved from government provincial and district stores to ensure continuity of care.

At Civil Hospital in Kathmandu, which provided critical trauma care during the peak of the crisis, UNFPA provided medical supplies including Inter-Agency Reproductive Health Kits 11B type to maintain essential sexual and reproductive health services, in response to an urgent government request.



*Delivery of SRHR commodities to affected remote health facilities. Bajura District, 19 September 2025.*

<sup>11</sup> Rapid Assessment of Child and Young People's Rights Violations and Urgent Needs During 'Gen Z' Led Political Movement in Nepal - Save The Children

**Gender-Based Violence:** UNFPA continues to safeguard access to critical GBV services despite widespread insecurity. Safe Houses and One Stop Crisis Management Centers are operating with reduced hours and remote modalities due to safety concerns. The destruction of municipal offices in several districts has disrupted legal aid and case management, while limited police availability has further reduced referral linkages, affecting GBV response services. In response, UNFPA is reinforcing and updating referral pathways to ensure timely access to survivor-centred care. Moreover, the Protection Cluster, which includes both the UNFPA-led GBV Sub-Cluster and the UNICEF-led Child Protection Sub-Cluster, has been activated and is working to address service delivery gaps at both national and local levels.

**Mental Health and Psychosocial Support:** UNFPA is expanding mental health and psychosocial support services to address the acute psychological impact of the crisis on women, girls, youth, and affected communities. A free national hotline has been launched in partnership with organizations specialized in mental health, providing confidential psychosocial support with information disseminated through radio and social media. Trained female facilitators and peer counsellors have been mobilized to deliver psychosocial first aid, group counselling, and referrals, with a focus on high-risk groups such as GBV survivors and adolescents, through 200 UNFPA-supported Safe Spaces across the nation.

**Adolescents and Youth:** Recognizing that young people have been at the centre of political instability, UNFPA has activated the UN Youth Technical Working Group to conduct rapid assessments of how young people are affected, including marginalized groups such as adolescent girls, youth with disabilities, and LGBTQIA+ communities. UNFPA is mobilizing Youth Peer networks and safe spaces in provinces to deliver accurate information, crisis counselling, and referrals. Efforts also include integrating media literacy and safe digital practices to counter misinformation and convening youth dialogues in trusted venues to strengthen civic participation, peacebuilding, and resilience during this political transition.

## For more information

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